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No. Fox

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Benjamin Fox was sworn & Examined by the Commissioner

Was one of the Contractors for building the Branch Mint at New Orleans — Mr. Tyler observed to Deponent that the Locks on the doors at the Mint were not very good & said he had a key which would open any of them — he exhibited to Deponent a Skeleton key & Deponent said he could make one of the same sort — An ordinary key is easily converted into a key of this sort — knows nothing further on the subject — the locks on the doors of the Mint were good of the kind — does not know that Tyler as signed any reason for having made the Skeleton key — thinks there were other persons present at the time of the above conversation with Tyler, perhaps several persons, the Conversation occurred in the Treasurer's room — the Conversation was addressed to deponent in an ordinary tone of Voice — there was no secre~~t~~cy about it, as deponent thought the conversation he

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Mr. Loy.

thinks was about the time of the Commencement of the operations of the Mint — some time in 1838 — He knows nothing of Mr. Tyler's qualifications, when deponent has been at the Mint has generally seen Mr. Tyler here, attending apparently to the business of his department.

Deponent on his Visits to the Mint does not recollect of seeing persons of suspicious appearance about the establishment.

Mr. Harmstead.

Joseph B. Harmstead was Sworn.

Deponent is a machinist — was first employed at the Mint sometime in November 1837 & so has since continued — was engaged in the Coiner's Department — the Machinery was in pretty good condition when it first arrived from the North — as good as could be expected, when Deponent arrived some part of it, such as the presses & milling machines were still in the boxes & had to be set up — Deponent assisted in setting up the Coining presses — some parts of them were rusted & required rubbing but they

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Mr. Harmstead

were however in very good order. The triangle was afterwards altered by Mr. Tyler. Pieces of brass plates were placed in the centres of the triangles of the large & small press; this addition stiffened the triangle but did not alter the original design — with this addition the triangle works ~~well~~ very well — Deponent does not know how it would have worked before — thinks the work thus put on the triangles stiffened & must of course be an advantage — The ball & socket was reduced in the small presses — thinks the reduction has been of no advantage — does not know whether an injury has accrued from this change — is not able to say how the Coining press works now, being in a different portion of the Department — the draw bench was altered by taking out rolls placed for the chain to roll on & by substituting plank — There was no other alteration — the draw bench now works very well — not

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Mr Harmstead

having seen the draw bench work before, Deponent cannot say whether the alteration was a beneficial one or otherwise. There has been an alteration made to the Steam Engine by Mr. Tyler — it was by attaching the eccentric with the motive, taking out the one that was in before & putting a different one — does not know what was the object of the change — thinks the Engine does not work very well — Has perceived no change in the working of the Engine which works the same as before — The engine works very badly — it worked badly at first — it was afterwards repaired & does not think the repairs improved it — The foundation had settled & was taken down & readjusted — attributed its working badly at first to the settling — does not know to what to attribute its working badly now thinks the Engine has been used carelessly

Mr. Tyler made some al=

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Mr. Harmstead.

-terations to the Cutting machine — there was an alteration in the Joint which connects the slide with the Connecting rod — The Machine now works well — In one of the Cutting Machines there was an alteration as to holding the seal down — it is not better now than before — there were no other alterations to the Cutting Machines —

There was a change made to the Coining press as to oiling the ball & socket a piece of Steel was placed on the stake to raise the Ball from the Socket when it descended — does not know the effect of it the object was to raise the ball from the Socket — thinks this play would be injurious as to the permanency of the ball & socket, as the bearing would be on the piece of steel; by permanency witness means the solidity of the Triangle — as to the friction of the ball & socket does not think it would be greater or less from this change — thinks there would

Mr. Harmstead.

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be no difference as to the wearing of the ball & socket

The coining department was ready for actual operation about last of May or 1st June 1838— thinks in the preparation of this department more time was consumed than was necessary— say two or three months— Machinists were employed in brightening and altering the arch of the press thinks this brightening &c. was to keep the men employed while Mr. Tyler could arrange such alterations as he thought necessary— Mr. Tyler did not appear anxious to get his department ready.

Being asked what is his opinion of Mr. Tyler's capacity & acquirements as a machinist?

Thinks Mr. Tyler has some peculiar ideas.

Thinks he has a knowledge of Machinery— that his theoretical knowledge of Machinery is very good— but thinks him not a competent man for the place he holds.

Is not much acquainted with

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Mr. Harmstead

Mr. Browns capacity & acquirements, but has seen some of his work which was very good — thinks Mr. Donney a superior workman — as good as any he has ever worked with during an experience of 8 years — better than any he has ever worked with at his age.

Quest. Proposed by Mr. Tyler — Was not the object of Mr. Tyler's change in the Coining press with regard to the Ball & socket, to make it a self oiling machine?

Ans. Does not know whether it was or not nor whether it had that effect or not.

There has been a quarrel between Mr. Tyler & Brown but does not know whether they are on good or bad terms now —

The ball & socket in an injured Condition being exhibited to witness, thinks it had not been kept well Oiled — thinks it would not have become injured, if it had been well oiled — thinks the steel piece according to

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Mr. Hammstead

Mr. Tyler's plan, would have the effect of oiling the worn surface of the ball & socket, if the steel piece produced the effect of raising the ball but does not know whether the steel piece so raised it or not the last time Deponent saw the (ball now at work) dime press, the ball did not appear worn in that press Mr Tyler's plan of oiling is used does not recollect how long it has been in use it was very seldom Deponent could get into the room where it was, (unless by stealing his way ~~very seldom Deponent would~~ in, & whenever Mr. Tyler happened to come in when deponent was there, he would say something to Deponent to give him to understand that he must go to some other part of the building — Deponents work was in some other portion of the department — Deponent & Mr Tyler have not had any difficulty but have had little to say to each other

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Mr. G. H. Moore was sworn

Is a blacksmith in the Mint — is about 23 years of age — has been employed in the Mint since the latter part of 1847 — was acquainted with Mr. Denney # — Mr. Tyler informed Deponent that Mr. Denney would not sign a contract to give him, Tyler a compensation, he thinks of $300, for instructing Denney in mechanics & Mr. Tyler ~~of~~ assigned this as one, of the reasons for Denneys removal. Deponent has read the contract referred to. Mr. Tyler told Deponent that Denney intended to bring charges against him, Tyler, when he got to Philadelphia and Mr. Tyler remarked that Denney had better not do so, as if Denney intended to start business in Philadelphia, he, Tyler, would be able to give him some work, as he would rather trust Denney with work than Mr. Marshall.

#Understood Denney was foreman of Mr Tylers

Mr. Moore

Mr. Moore

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Here a contract in pencil being exhibited, Mr. Tyler admitted it to be his hand-writing — Deponent on being shown said contract, says he believes it to be the same referred to above — Has heard Mr. Tyler observe that Dr. Patterson would support him — also that Mr. Bradford would have to go to Bayou Sara, by which deponent supposed he meant Mr. Bradford would have to leave his present station — he stated at the same time that he did not know what the consequences would be as to himself or substantially to that effect. Mr. Tyler on one occasion got deponent to come to the weighing room & assist in carrying some clippings & planchets that were there, and bars of silver & strips — They were weighed & deponent carried them on the truck to the Melter & Refiners vault — This was some time last season — This was the only time that Deponent has been so employed — Mr. Lilly, Mr. Tyler & Mr. Maxwell, & as he believes Mr. Bassat.

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Mr. Moore

were present at the time — Mr. Lilly was then weighing Clerk & Mr. Basset was one of the Melter & Refiners men — it was during the business hours of the Mint — does not know whether the Planchets were sound planchets or not — Mr. Lilly marked down the weights in a book after first putting it down on paper. Witness supposes the book was there for that purpose. The Windows of the room were hoisted & the doors open — Does not know whether any particular person is generally employed to carry bullion from the weigh room to melting room or coiner's room.

Mr. Garcia

Felix Garcia was sworn. Is president of Draining Company — is acquainted with Mr. Brown the Engineer — he is in the employ of said company as engineer & machinist — has had an opportunity of making himself acquainted with Mr. Browns capacity & acquirements on such subjects — The business in which he

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Mr. Garcia

was engaged by said company
required changes & improvements
that could only be made by a
practical & good engineer
Considers Mr. Brown a good
engineer & what he has seen of
his work induces him to believe him to be as above stated
Is not able to speak of his scientific acquirements — Deponents
observations & induce him to believe that Brown possesses the theoretical knowledge & practical
experience suited to his profession
Deponent has some acquaintance with the science of
mechanics.

Examined on behalf of
Mr. Bradford

Deponent is president of the
Senate of Louisiana — has turned
his attention to the subject
of Mechanics & has made
some improvements on his
plantation in the works of his
sugar house, particularly as
to the clarification of sugar
economy of fuel &c the apparattus of Deponent is now much
used in Louisiana & the
Legislature have given

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Deponent an exclusive privilege for it.—

Mr. Garcia

Mr. Garcia was requested by the Commissioner to visit the Coining department on Friday next at 10 O'clock & to present in writing such observations on the state of the Machinery in that department, its improvements &c as he might deem desirable & important.

Mr. Clark.

Nathan Clark was sworn

Deponent is a machinist has been here since February 1838, has had charge of the Engine; but has not now; left the Engine on 1st July 1838.— is now finisher in the machine shop— while deponent had charge of the Engine no alterations were made in it— while deponent had charge of the Engine it operated well— Considers the Engine as at present out of order— probably in consequence of its being Keyed too tight, causing it to chafe— Does not think the Engine

Mr Clark

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has been treated this season as it should have been to preserve it — ~~Th~~ The fires this season have been covered on closing business with the ashes, to keep the fire for next morning — This would also keep the water hot, so that the Steam could be more easily obtained the next morning —

Considers Mr Tyler capable of performing the duties of his office — Mr Tyler's conduct towards him generally has been proper, but he has been occasionally fractious towards deponent.

Being asked what he considers the true reason of the difficulties which have taken place between Mr Tyler & some of his workmen from time to time — he says that Mr Tyler was a very particular & strict man about his work & rigorous in having it done in any other way that suited his views — That Denney who left here last winter was in deponents opinion one of the best

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Mr Clark.

workmen, deponent has ever known that he does not pretend to say such was the reason, but he has sometimes conjectured that Tyler may have been jealous of Denney's work — that Deponent leaves to the other men to explain the reasons why they have had dissatisfaction. Mr Tyler's conduct towards Deponent has been generally very handsome — Being asked which of the two men Denny or Tyler he considers most competent for the place of Coiner he says that he does not consider himself sufficiently acquainted with all the subjects of the Coiners department to be a competent Judge of this question.

Mr Lassere.

Mr Lassere was sworn

Was Clerk in Treasurer's office from 1st April 1838 to 1st Week of January 1839. the conduct of the Coiner & Melter & Refiner towards the Officers in the Treasurer's Office has been ungentlemanly

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& overbearing & insulting on an occasion in Spring of 1838 Mr. Durel being a Clerk in Treasurers Office was at work there, Mr. Forstall & Dr. Hort were sitting at the porch with witness; the porter came & said he had received orders from Mr. Tyler to shut the door at six O'clock. Mr. Forstall said he did not think proper to retire at that moment, then Mr. Tyler came & told Mr. Forstall the door must be shut. Mr. Forstall who is an old man, then retired Mr. Tyler seemed on all occasions disposed to assume the authority of the Superintendent. In July 1838 on opening the Treasurer's Office in the morning he observed that some body must have been in the Office from papers being displaced in the desk & by finding the door from the Treasurers Office to weighing room open in the morning— These circumstances

Mr. Lassere

Mr. Lafere

occurred repeatedly – Deponent apprised Mr. Bradford of it, who at first thought it was Deponents neglect, but after Deponent assured him that he was careful about shutting the door & arranging his papers Mr. Bradford said he would use all his efforts to find out who it was – But Mr. Bradford did not succeed – About the 1st. of August Mr Tyler & Mr. Maxwell with the porter paid off the Workmen, left the Mint & these circumstances then ceased; during the recess Mr. Fox came to settle an account & spoke to witness of Mr. Tyler having a skeleton key – Witness informed Mr. Bradford of this & Mr. Bradford had the lock changed to prevent the use of a skeleton key.

Mr. Bradford had a key that opened the Treasurer's Office, but does not know whether it would open other Offices has never known persons of doubtful appearance to be permitted to be

Mr. Laſsere

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Mr. Lamere

about the Mint — Deponent being asked to state his opinion of the competency efficiency & diligence of the Officers of the Mint answers as follows —

I. The Superintendent —
Considers him competent & zealous & courteous to the Officers & persons transacting business here.

II. The Treasurer — Declines answering this question.

III. The Melter & Refiner — Does not consider himself a judge of his competency — Considers him diligent so far as he had transactions with Treasurer's Office, connected with his own department — Considers that he led persons in the Treasurer's Office astray before the instructions came from Philadelphia.

IV The Coiner
Cannot judge of his competency, but should suppose from the amount carried he had not been diligent, and

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and faithful in the performance of his duties.

V The Assayer

Is not able to judge of Dr. Horts competency but he was very diligent in the performance of his duties & courteous in his behaviour to the other officers

Mr. Lafser

Dr. Hort

Dr. Horts Examination resumed.

I stated the other night that I believed Mr. Tyler to be competent to perform the duties of Coiner in this institution, I now say or affirm that his conduct has been highly insulting & overbearing & that he has assumed the authority of the Superintendent — claiming the right to direct officers & Clerks & every body belonging to the Mint as he pleased — I had occasion to go down to the rear of the building about day break, & my attention was attracted by the peculiar sharp sound of high steam, so much so as to alarm me for d conse-

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Dr. Holt

consequences as no workmen were about the Mint I looked through the window of the boiler room & saw an intensely hot fire in the boilers. I believe that the fire had been covered up at night but that it had burned through the ashes, & hearing no steam blowing off through the escape pipe I thought the boilers were in danger of explosion & mentioned it to Mr Bradford as to the precise time day & hour that I mentioned the circumstance to Mr. Bradford, I do not recollect but it was shortly after — I do not recollect to have mentioned it to any other person on the day that it happened, though I probably might have done so — This occurred within the last three months.

Mr. Johnson

William D. Johnson was sworn

On behalf of Mr. Bradford.

Last year I was in the

Mr Johnson

rolling room after the Mint went into operation — This year I have been in the rolling room — Blacksmith room, machine shop — counting room, weighing room, Mr Tylers rooms on the building white washing —

I think Mr Tylers conduct towards the men under his charge very improper — I have been induced to form this opinion from his treatment to the different men. I do not think him capable of filling the station he has, I do not think him capable of managing a number of men under his orders.

On behalf of Mr Tyler

Mr Tyler docked off my wages. I have applied to Mr Tyler to increase my wages & he has refused to do so. The first time I asked him for a removal from my station, he granted it to me he told me at the time that he had placed a man in that situation for the present; about as near as I can recollect I let pass on for

Mr. Humphreys

Mr. Johnson

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about three days. I thought it was then time to know something about it, I mentioned it to him & then, to know when I was to go. It appears that at that time he had altered his notion, he said then he believed he would not make a chang it would be to his advantage to keep me were I was.

I was once called by Mr. Tyler into the Weighing room to assist in weighing ingots, about 10 days or 2 Weeks ago.

Examination of Mr. Humphrey's resumed.

I am now & have for 15 months been engaged in the separating room, except when on some occasions I have been called into the Melting room.

Quest. State if silver after having been cast into ingots for coinage has ever been separated by the Melter & Refiner & the gold taken therefrom & if so in how many instances

Mr Humphreys

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Ans. There have been such instances & I think according to the best of my recollection three different times – The first time was shortly after the operations of the Mint were commenced – the other times since Nov. last, perhaps in January. What made me notice there had been a mistake in the Melters room was the bad manner in which the silver worked in the separating room. When there is copper in the silver it works up into the bottles in the separating room. I discovered that the Silver had been allayed from the manner in which it worked up in the bottles. By these means I ascertained there had been a mistake in the Melters room. I asked Mr Maxwell if the silver had been cast into ingots & ascertained it to be a fact.

Quest. – State how many ozs. or lbs. are generally

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Mr. Humphreys

contained in a melt of silver for Ingots?

Ans. I do not know the exact weight of the dollar ingots which I think we cast at that time, but we have commonly from 40 to 48 in a melt — I never weighed one of the Ingots but I suppose they weigh 3 lb

On behalf of Mr. Maxwell

Quest. How many times have you applied to Mr. Maxwell to know whether the bullion had been melted into Ingots previous to the appearance you speak of?

Ans. I think but once this I think was the second time — the first time we separated silver that contained nothing probably but gold, it worked well in the bottles, but from the others being alloyed with copper I was deceived & was told by Mr. Maxwell without asking him that the

silver we

Mr Humphreys

were working had been ingots that was the first of the two that had been alloyed according to the best of my recollection — there was gold separated from the silver each of these times.

Quest. Do you know whether there is not frequently gold separated from alloyed silver.

Ans. There ought not to be, if there is — There has been in the two instances I speak of — There should not be gold in silver alloyed for silver coins, is what I mean.

Quest. Is frequently not gold found in alloyed silver other than of standard fineness?

Ans. Probably there may be, where silver comes with gold in it, less than \$5.

Question. Does it not frequently happen that silver is melted into Ingots before it is rolled for separation

Mr. Lasere Mr Humphreys

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Ans. – Never had it rolled but three times since I have been in the Mint to my knowledge – It was done through ignorance or mistake both of the last times.

Examination of Mr. Lasere resumed.

On Behalf of Mr. Maxwell.

Quest. Did you not shortly before you left the Mint deliver to the Melter & Refiner a report of silver to be melted which contained gold, but which was not so marked or noted on the report?

Ans. No. I never gave any reports to the Melter & Refiner – He came & generally helped himself from the Treasurer's armoire In the first days of January Mr. Maxwell came in the Treasurer's Office whilst I was counting dimes. Messrs Bradford & Forstall were in the Office at the time – Mr. Maxwell asked me if

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Mr. Lassère

the deposite of silver of Lizardi did not containe gold (this was the first time that he ever questioned me about any thing of the kind) I answered him yes, & left off counting the Dimes to hand & him the report, but he immediately left the room — Next day Messrs. Bradford & Forstall being again in the office Mr. Maxwell came in & asked me if I had not told him the day previous that only the two last numbers of saide deposite contained gold, I answered him, no, that I had told him that there was silver containing gold, but did not tell him what Nos. as I did not remember — I immediately went & got the report & handed it to him — He saw that there were more Nos. containing gold — He then got in a passion & said that I had told him so, which I positively denied — It has always been my opinion since that time, having found that he had made a mistake he wished to throw the blame on me, Mr. Maxwell & I have had a quarrel on that occasion & we have not since spoken.

Quest. Please to recollect if you did not deliver on that occasion a paper to Mr. Maxwell with the said bullion on which was marked the gross or standard weight, without reference of their being gold in it.

Ans. I do not remember

Mr. Lassere

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Testimony given before Thos Slidell Esq, the Commissioner on the 3d of July 1839. by B. Fox, Armstead Moore, Garcia, Clark

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